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12 NATIONS SIGN ATLANTIC PACT

Russians Attack Iranian Territory

A Russian regiment is reported to have attacked an Iranian army post in North-western Azerbaijan a few days ago and "an important battle" was fought.

The reports said the Russian troops used tanks and armoured cars and crossed the border in the Pader district near the Caspian Sea.

It is believed that Iran has handed Russia a stiff protest. The number of Russian casualties is unknown.

The incident is regarded as the most serious attack since the Azerbaijan fighting two years ago.

SIXTH INCIDENT

It is the sixth reported incident this year and follows on the heels of a Soviet attack said to have occurred in the Gossan district recently.

Last autumn the Russians established border posts in Iranian territory.

Travelers from the north report that there have been Russian concentrations in the region of the Caucasus close to the Iranian Turkish borders. Soviet forces there held exercises, using heavy artillery and tanks not far from Mount Arrat.

In recent weeks the Russian radio stepped up its attack on Iran, claiming a breach of the treaty by the presence of American advisers in Iran.—Associated Press.

Fewer Divorces In America

Washington, Apr. 4.—There has been a sharp decline in the divorce rate in the United States during the past two years, according to Government figures. Marriages also have declined.

The Public Health Service estimates that there were 415,000 divorces granted last year compared with 474,000 in 1947, and a record number of 610,000 in 1946.

The marriage rate last year was 185,000, compared with 1,991,878 in 1947 and more than two million in 1946.—Reuter.

Reprieve Sought For Young Murderess

London, Apr. 4.—Within a few minutes of an appeal against the death sentence on a young mother having been dismissed today, a solicitor was on his way to Whitehall with a petition praying for a reprieve. There were 12,000 signatures on the petition.

Nationwide sympathy has been aroused for the young mother, Mrs. Rene Duffy, aged 19, since she was sentenced for the murder of her 23 year old husband in Manchester. Her husband was described in the trial as a man who had subjected her to endless cruelty and who, when they quarrelled and she wanted to leave, refused to let her take her baby with her.

Last month, a warrant officer in the Royal Army Ordnance Corps offered to be executed in Mrs. Duffy's place if her appeal failed.—Reuter.

Paderewski's Bequest To Universities

Paris, Apr. 4.—The late Dr Ignace Paderewski, the world famous pianist and the first Prime Minister of the Polish Republic, left about £14,000 to five Polish universities, the Polish Embassy announced here today. The will, drawn up in 1930, was opened last week in a Paris judge's office.

A Polish Embassy spokesman said today that the money was left to the Universities of Cracow, Jagiellonne, Wroclaw and Poznan and the Conservatoire of Warsaw, to provide scholarships.

Dr Paderewski also left £250 per annum to his brother Joseph and his half-sister Maria, and £5,000 to his former secretary, his wife, Madame Helena Paderewski, who died in 1934, and other relatives who have died since the will was made, were also mentioned, the spokesman added.

The total value of the Paderewski estate was "about £250,000."

Maitre Bricout, the Polish Embassy solicitor here, told Reuter that Dr Paderewski stated in his will: "I ask pardon of all whom I may have offended. I myself pardoned everyone save those who govern my country for their personal ends."

Maitre Bricout said that as Dr Paderewski's fortune consisted mostly of property in Switzerland, Brazil and the United States, the total value of £250,000 was "a very rough" figure. The properties were being revalued.—Reuter.

FILM ACTRESS SERIOUSLY ILL

Hollywood, Apr. 4.—Every effort is being made to save the baby expected by film actress Olivia de Havilland in August, her studio announced yesterday.

The actress was reported earlier to be seriously ill. She has been confined to bed for the last two months. A doctor said he doubted whether she will be up again before the birth of the baby.

Wife of novelist Marcus Goodrich, Miss de Havilland was reported to have greatly improved towards the end of last week, but her condition became serious over the weekend.—Associated Press.

Ships Take Shelter

London, Apr. 4.—Shipping is sheltering today at many points around the British coast after one of the stormiest nights for many years. At times the wind attained a velocity of 120 kilometres per hour.

Gales delayed today's train from Dunkirk.—Reuter.

Bulwark For Fuller And Happier Life

MOVING SPEECHES AT HISTORIC CEREMONY

Washington, Apr. 4.—The Foreign Ministers of the 12 Western nations formally signed the Atlantic Pact today, binding their Governments at an historic ceremony here to recognise an attack on one as an attack on all.

Television and news cameras whirled and clicked in the State Department's ornate Auditorium while the Ministers stepped up in alphabetical order of the countries to put the seal to nine months of negotiations for common defence.

The agreement pledges the 12 powers to consult together when their territorial integrity, political independence or security is threatened in any part of the world, to do everything to strengthen their free institutions and eliminate conflict between themselves in the economic field.

The agreement is valid first for 10 years and will then be reviewed for another 10 years.

Mr Dean Acheson, the U.S. Secretary of State, welcomed his 11 colleagues to the packed Hall and opened the ceremony, declaring: "For those who set their feet on the path of aggression, this treaty is a warning that if it must needs be that offences come, then we unto them by whom the offence cometh."

Welcoming the Foreign Ministers of the 11 other Pact nations and addressing 1,300 members of the Diplomatic Corps, officials and newspapermen, Mr Acheson said: "We are met together to consummate a solemn purpose of those who had drafted the treaty was 'like the purpose of those who chart the stars—not to create what they record, but to set down realities for the guidance of men, whether well or ill disposed."

"For those who seek peace, it is a guide to a very present help in trouble. For those who set their feet upon the path of aggression, it is a warning that if it must needs be that offences come, then we unto them by whom the offence cometh."

"The reality which is set down here is not created here. The reality is the unity of belief of spirit, interest, of the community of nations represented here. It is the product of many centuries of common thought and of the blood of many simple and brave men and women. The reality lies not in the common pursuit of a material goal or of power to dominate others. It lies in the affirmation of moral and spiritual values which govern the kind of life they propose to lead, and which they propose to defend by all possible means should that necessity be thrust upon them."

"Even this purpose is a fact which has been demonstrated twice in this present century. It is well that these truths be known. From this act taken here today will flow increasing good for all peoples. From this joining of many wills and one purpose will come new inspiration for the future."

"A new strength and courage will accrue not only to the peoples of the Atlantic community but to all peoples of the world community who seek for themselves and for others equally freedom and peace."

Mr Acheson's warning to aggressors is a slight variation of Chapter 18, verse 27, of the Gospel of St. Matthew in the New Testament.

This states: "Woe unto the world because of the offences that come, but woe to that man by whom the offence cometh."

President Harry Truman, speaking after all the Foreign Ministers and just before the signing, rejected Russia's charge that the Pact was "aggressive" and hailed it as a "shield against aggression."

It would create a bulwark behind which the peoples of the world could go on with "achieving a fuller and happier life."

"In taking steps to prevent aggression against our own peoples we have no purpose of aggression against others," the President stated.

"To suggest the contrary is to slander our institutions and demean our ideals and our aspirations."

"We have come together in a great co-operative economic effort but we cannot succeed if our people are haunted by the constant fear of aggression and burdened by the cost of preparing for the possibility of individual aggression against attack."

The alliance, President Truman said, was a "simple document but if it had existed in 1914 and in 1939, supported by the nations which are represented here today, I believe it would have prevented the acts of aggression which led to two world wars."

Mr Truman said that the North Atlantic people faced a common problem of "mastering the forces of modern technology in the public interest. To meet this problem successfully, we must have a world in which we can exchange the products of our labour not only among ourselves but with other nations."

"But we cannot succeed if our people are haunted by the constant fear of aggression."

Mr Truman referred to the signature of the Treaty as "a neighbourly act, we are like a group of neighbours, living in the same locality, who decide to express their common community of interests by entering into a formal association for their mutual self-protection."

"The nations who will sign it agree to abide by the peaceful principles of the United Nations, to maintain friendly relations and economic cooperation with one another, to consult together whenever the territory or independence of any one of them is threatened, and to come to the aid of any one of them which may be attacked."

Mr Truman went on to say that "within the United Nations, this country and other countries have hoped to establish an international force for the use of the United Nations in

Preserving peace throughout the world."

Without naming the Soviet Union he added solemnly, "Our efforts to establish this force, however, have been blocked by one of the major Powers."

"This lack of unanimous agreement in the Security Council does not mean that we must abandon our attempts to make peace secure. Even without that agreement, which we still hope for, we shall do as much as we can."

"In this Treaty we seek to establish freedom from aggression and from the use of force in the North Atlantic community."

"This is the area which has been at the heart of the last two world conflicts."

"To protect this area against war will be a long step towards permanent peace in the whole world."

BEVIN'S OBSERVATIONS
The British Foreign Secretary, Mr Ernest Bevin, said he was satisfied that "the step we are taking has the almost unanimous approval of the British people."

"We have witnessed a period in which, while the countries represented here have been striving to rehabilitate the world and to restore it to prosperity and sanity, they have been constantly frustrated in their efforts—we had to get together and build with such material as was available to us, and this material was happily at hand in this great Atlantic community, with its common outlook and desire for peace."

"Our peoples do not glorify war but they will not shrink from it if aggression is threatened."

As a result of the Pact democracy was no longer a series of isolated units but had become "a cohesive organism."

Mr Bevin added, "But this is not the final end. We shall pursue with every endeavour the building of a truly universal United Nations to which this group of countries will be no mean contributor."

Mr Bevin also said that "in appending my signature to this Pact today, I am doing so on behalf of a free parliamentary

(Continued on Page 5)

Western Nations And Soviet Eastern Bloc Military Strength Comparisons

Washington, Apr. 4.—The North Atlantic Treaty unites 12 Western countries with a total population of 332,439,000—nearly 15 per cent more manpower than the Soviet group.

Russia, with its six Eastern European allies, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Rumania, Bulgaria and Albania, have a population of 274,730,000.

Measured in manpower, the present armed strength of the Treaty countries and the Soviet bloc is estimated to be roughly the same. This covers the standing armies, navies and air forces but does not include reserves that might be called up in the event of war.

Most of the military manpower of the Atlantic group is centred on the armed forces of the United States, Britain and France. The three countries account for about 311,300 of the 12-Power total of 4,148,000.

Russia is the big power of the Soviet group with an estimated 4,050,000 men. In its armed forces, Her other allies add about 1,181,000 to that figure.

The big navies of the United States and Britain, plus the naval forces of the other allies, give the Atlantic alliance a wide edge in sea-power.

As for air power, military experts can only guess. They estimate that the total number of aeroplanes is about the same for the Western and Eastern blocs,

but believe that the Atlantic Powers probably muster more long-range bombers.

In addition to their potential manpower advantage, the Western Powers together possess:

- (1) More than three times as much capacity for producing steel.
- (2) More than twice as much coal production.
- (3) Eight times as much oil.
- (4) Almost 34 times as much ocean-going merchant tonnage.
- (5) Nearly three times as much motor transport.—Reuter.

SINGAPORE TACKLES HOUSING PROBLEM

Singapore, Apr. 5.—First practical steps towards relieving housing congestion by the provision of more houses in Singapore has been taken by the Colony's Legislative Body.

The city's legislators have approved the immediate preparation of a diagnostic survey of the housing requirements in this Colony. The survey, to cost Straits\$500,000, will cover a period of three years.

The diagnostic survey, according to the Commissioner of Lands, Mr C. W. A. Sennett, would find out how many people had to be dealt with, particulars of their work, size of their families and their needs for public facilities such as schools and the like.—Associated Press.

Chinese Red Radio Contradicts Cease Fire Report

Nanking, Apr. 5.—Nationalist leaders, listening for confirmation of the Communist delegation's reported verbal promise to issue a cease-fire order today, heard the Communist Peiping Radio last night declare that Red liberation armies were preparing to cross the Yangtse river to "sweep away the Kuomintang murderers."

Magnifying last week's skirmishes between Nanking University students and Kuomintang Army veterans into "more than 200 killed, wounded, thrown in the river and missing," the Radio quoted from an editorial in the Communist New China News Agency and called Acting President Li Tsung-jen, the Premier, General Ho Ying-chin, and General Pai Chung-hsi "war criminals who must be captured alive."

It accused the Nanking Government of insincerity in the peace negotiations, and said that it was plotting for further war. The Nanking Government, it said, was "a gang of murderers who had not laid aside their butcher's knife."

The Radio read a sheet of telegrams from student organisations in Communist areas sympathising with the Nanking students, and went on to claim the capture of all Honan Province, except for two isolated counties.

The broadcast did not alter the views of neutral observers that the Communists will issue a cease-fire order to appeal to the sentiments of the Chinese war-weary masses.

WAR OF NERVES
They described the broadcast as another thrust in the Communist war of nerves as the peace talks get under way.

Messages from Hankow last night said General Pai Chung-hsi had expressed confidence in his ability to defend the city, 300 miles west of the capital, as the Communist armies continue their advance south from Honan into Huppei Province within 74 miles of Hankow.

Further Nationalist sources in Nanking last night confirmed a report from an authoritative source in the President's Office that the Chinese Communists have agreed, in preliminary exchanges with the Nationalist peace delegation visiting Peiping, to issue a cease-fire order.

They emphasised, however, that the Communist decision was a verbal one and it remained to be seen whether it would be confirmed by an order.

der in the Communist official broadcast. They were waiting anxiously for this to take place as an essential prerequisite of the formal peace negotiations on a political level.—Reuter-AAP.

Police Search For Stanley

May Be In Israel

London, Apr. 4.—The police authorities today had still no news of Mr Sydney Stanley, the Lynskey Tribunal witness who failed to report to them on Saturday. Scotland Yard last night ordered a widespread check at ports, airports and air companies.

Stanley is due to appear on Wednesday to answer a summons under the Bankruptcy Act. By failing to report to the police he has made himself liable to prosecution for a breach of the Aliens Order.

In New York today, Marcus Walkan, Stanley's brother, said he heard unofficially that Stanley might have reached Israel. "I was hopeful that my brother would go to Israel," he told Reuters. "I am, of course, anxious to know of his whereabouts."

NO KNOWLEDGE
A Reuter despatch from Tel-Aviv today said that nothing was known there of the whereabouts of Stanley. His lawyer, Mr Max Sellman, who had applied for Stanley, said he had "absolutely no knowledge" of Stanley's plans or movements.

The leaders of the Herut Party (formerly the Irgun Zvai Leumi terrorists), experts in smuggling people into Palestine, also professed ignorance of Stanley's movements.

An Israeli official spokesman stated definitely that if he did arrive in Israel without a visa he would be "returned whence he came" like any other visa-less person.

Some observers in Tel-Aviv believed nevertheless that Stanley—stated at the Tribunal already to have used six names in his career—might arrive under another name, with papers apparently in order.—Reuter.

EDITORIAL

World Economic Balance

AS the world progresses towards an economic balance three factors acquire added emphasis. They are: First, the dependence on one another of many countries for supplies of food, raw materials and goods, expansion of trade and the eventual freeing of their monetary exchanges; secondly, the interest which each country—even currently prosperous—must take in one another's progress; and lastly, the need for greater international co-operation. As the day of world economic balance draws nearer so the sensitiveness of any one country to external events will increase. While, for instance a country may have perfected its plans to counter any incipient slump, once production begins to meet with the demands it will be impossible for it to insulate itself completely against a slump elsewhere. And so one aim should be towards increased collaboration on the order of the Marshall Aid scheme which has developed between the U.S.A. and Western Europe. An essential of this is the wider co-operation and greater exchange of information about economic affairs in every country. In this respect the United Nations is doing valuable work in a number of directions such as the recent publication "The Major Economic Change in 1948", which gives a fine summary of world progress last year. Agriculture, industrial production and raw materials are the essentials of full recovery. Taking them in turn, the United Nations' view on agriculture is that as a result of the substantially larger harvests in the summer of 1948 the supply of foodstuffs during 1949 will

be increased considerably. This is perhaps the most important economical development during the past year. Its importance is not limited to the possibilities which it brings of raising the food consumption levels and of further rehabilitating agriculture. The increased supplies of foodstuffs represent an added means of reducing inflationary pressure for expanding production generally, for increasing the volume of foreign trade and for alleviation of the international payment problem of many countries. Most indications point to the 1948-1949 agricultural season as being a bumper one for the world. The recovery in some European wheat and rye crops in the present season is expected to be very marked, the percentage increases on 1947 being estimated at 26% in Czechoslovakia, 170% in Denmark, 120% in France, 53% in the British and American zones of Germany, 32% in Italy, 34% in Holland, 46% in Poland and 38% in Britain. The total world food production has however, some way still to go before it catches up with demands. Secondly, as far as industrial production is concerned, the world needs for re-equipment purposes have naturally put heavy emphasis on all capital goods. Recovery or expansion is therefore generally much greater in the iron, steel, chemicals and engineering industries. Finally the world is beginning to produce more raw materials, and the general picture of progress toward economic balance is one of great encouragement, though much has still to be accomplished in the realms of production and distribution before the desired economic equilibrium is attained.

WORLD NEWS IN PICTURES



TEACHING PAPA—As the one-millionth man to join the Expectant Fathers' Club, James Trammell gets a lesson in Washington, with a baby as a practical model.



PRIZE WINNER—For the first time in the history of the White House News Photographers' Association, in Washington, three first prizes, one third prize and the grand prize went to a single photographer, Frank Cancellare, top notch Washington cameraman. One of his prize winners was this picture of a soldier and his girl beneath the cherry blossoms around Washington's Tidal Basin.



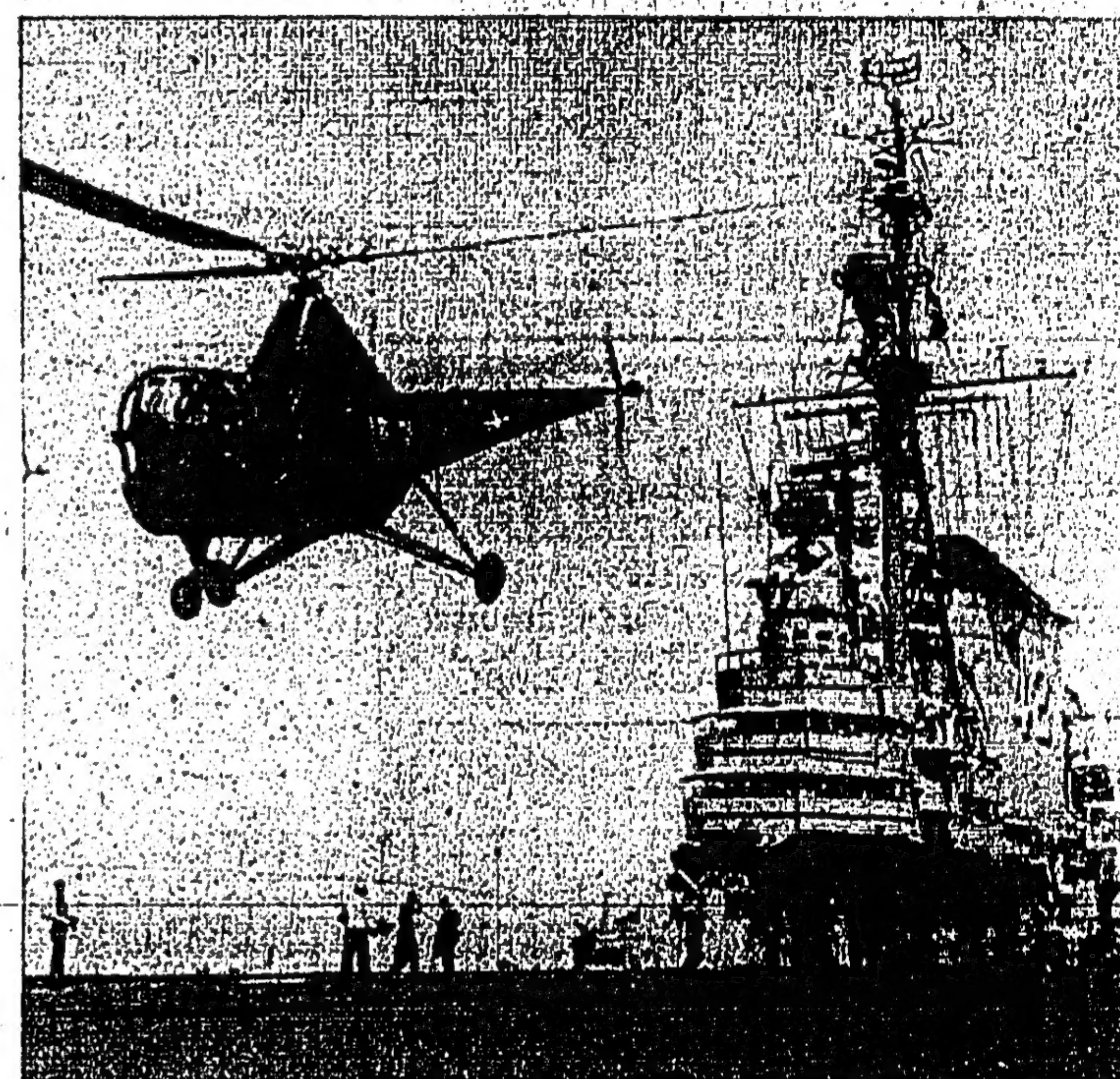
TOGETHER AGAIN—M/Sgt John D. Kent, of Fort Worth, Texas, is reunited with his Italian bride in Milan. Kent met his wife during the war. They took their marriage vows last December by phone from their home towns.



CHART WORK—Leading an expedition in Panama, Dr Matthew W. Stirling, of Washington, D.C., looks over a map with his wife and crew members of a plane from the USAF Caribbean Air Command. After spotting his objective from the helicopter, which landed the party nearby, Dr Stirling unearthed relics of an American civilisation antedating the arrival of Christopher Columbus.



OUT OF RUINS—When workmen removed this bell from the belfry of the Memory Church in the British sector of Berlin, they found it was the only one undamaged. The heavy bombing of the city during the war had harmed all the others. Preparations are being made to demolish the shell of the destroyed church.



TAKING OFF—A helicopter takes off from the deck of the aircraft carrier USS Franklin Roosevelt as the U.S. Atlantic Fleet stages its largest postwar exercises in the Caribbean.



EARLY BEGINNERS—When the principal of a school in Osaka, Japan, tried to combat juvenile delinquency, he organised a music group. The children were told to bring musical instruments to school, and during the early rehearsals these toy xylophones became an important part of the orchestra.



PLAYING FOR WORK—This street musician, in Rome, displays a large sign with a request for employment. But he doesn't want a job as a musician. The lower sign explains that he'd prefer work as a mechanic.



DRAMATIC—Opera star Gladys Swarthout introduces this mantilla for evening wear. The sequined ebony net is embroidered with black teardrop crystals. A lace fan complements it.

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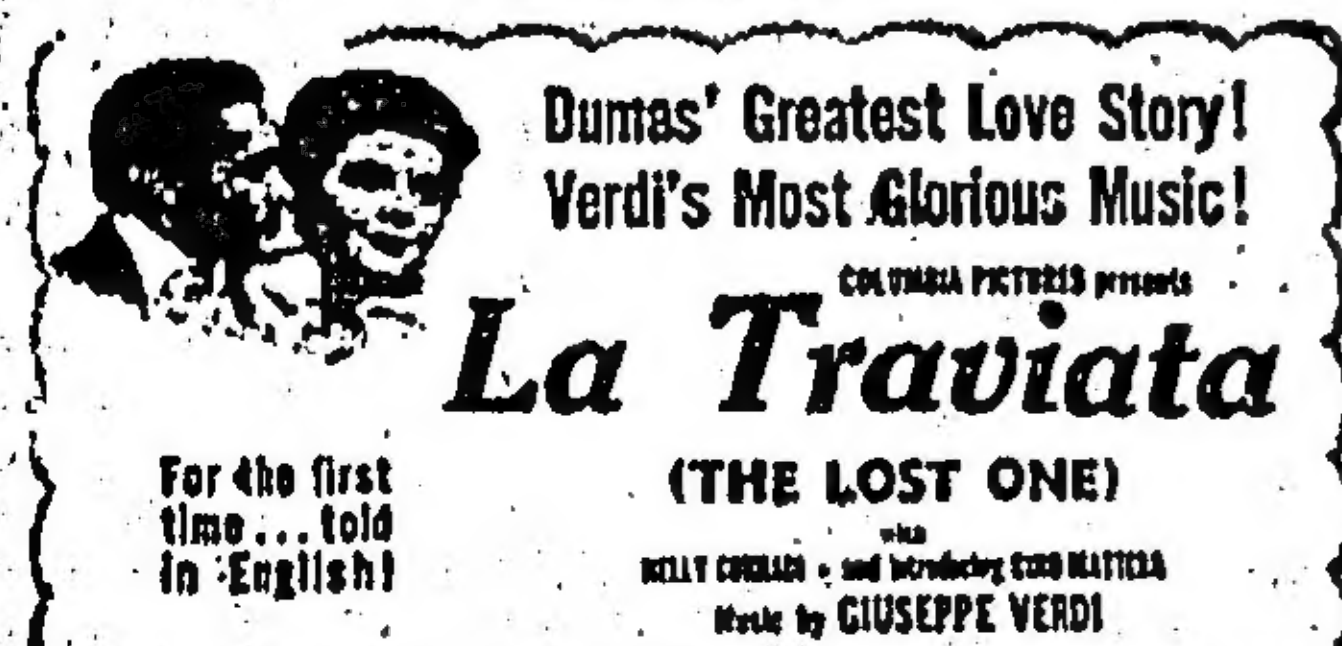
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— TO-MORROW —



GUARD OF HONOUR

FOOD FACTS

The Belgians are eating as well as prewar

BRUSSELS.
No. 21, Rue de Pyretres, in the Brussels suburb of Boitsfort, is one of those little two-storey houses of which there are rows and rows in Brussels and rows in Wembley or Willemsen—except that these houses in Boitsfort are prettier and built with more imagination.

No. 21 has a lawn in front with shrubs and Japanese cherry trees which flower in spring, a useful vegetable plot at the back. No. 21 looks exactly like its neighbours.

I called there in between visiting the Belgian Ministry of Economic Affairs and a host of other offices where experts deal with economic policies and figures.

For at No. 21 live the Mazijns, father and mother and 14-year-old daughter—about as average a Belgian family as you will find anywhere.

I WANTED to see and hear for myself how people like the Mazijns are getting along in this country which has led the way in Europe by abolishing rationing and food subsidies.

Antoine Mazijn is a printer, earning about £8 a week, of which £7 is left when taxes and social dues have been taken off.

I had met him the day before being over "the stone" in the printing shop of one of Brussels' biggest Flemish newspapers, putting the last touches to the front page.

I told Mazijn that it had been said by a very high authority in Britain that Belgian workers are worse off today than before rationing was dropped, because prices in Belgium are so high, in this British expert's opinion, that the Belgians cannot afford to eat, and that British workers are doing better on their rations than the Belgian workers.

Antoine Mazijn's reaction was the same as that of all other Belgians, highly and lowly placed, to whom I had told this and, for that matter, of the British residents, too, with whom I discussed the great man's affirmation.

He roared with laughter. "Come out to my home and talk to the wife," he said.

THAT invitation, however, did not stop this sandy-haired, frail-looking man with the friendly eyes from giving me there and then a picture of the unrationed eating he was doing himself—an account which made me wonder how anyone could put down so much and look so thin.

To gist of what he told me was that: (1) he and his family are eating more plentifully and with more variation than they were when food was still on

coupons in Belgium. Above all, that they are eating more meat than before, and more butter; (2) that they are spending more on food now than last year, although for many things—chocolate and margarine, for instance—prices have come down since rationing was abandoned.

The reason was, he said, that they were doing now what they had been unable to do under rationing—the Mazijns were eating as much and as well as they did before the war.

Mazijn insisted that he and his family were no better off than the majority of Belgian workers, none of whom got less than 900 francs (£5 10s.) a week. Most of them got about the same as he did, and some a bit more.

"When I am on the day shift at the printing shop," said Mazijn, "I do not have much breakfast. I have a cup of coffee and milk—we drink an awful lot of coffee and get through about 2lb. a week—and two large slices of bread and an egg, boiled or fried."

"My wife," he continued, as though apologizing for this economy, "only cooks meat in butter, and of course, pastry in butter, but vegetables and eggs she does mostly in margarine."

"I take a half-litre (roughly four-fifths of a pint) of coffee with me, and four good, thick slices of bread and butter, and something to go with the bread. I mostly have eggs, bacon, or a cold omelette or a piece of meat or some cheese. At midday I have a snack in the newspaper canteen, for which I pay ten francs (1s. 2d.) a month. The firm pays 1s. 9d. a head, extra for every meal served, their accountants informed me."

"It is a good meal," said Mazijn, with relish, "with a soup, a dish of six to eight good potatoes on it, and some vegetables, and a piece of meat. The meat almost every day for their midday meal, though not on Fridays, of course. When they do not have meat they have fish or eggs, often eggs and bacon."

IN the evening? M. Mazijn continued: "We usually eat at six o'clock—I got off at four. We have a dish of potatoes most days with some vegetables or

eggs or meat. Or perhaps the wife will cook up a dish of macaroni done in butter with tomato, eggs and a cream cheese sauce poured over it. Do you know that? It is delicious."

Delicious it certainly is. When I called at Mazijn's home the macaroni was in the oven just about ready for lunch. Mme. Mazijn, a typical Flemish housewife, insisted on my tasting this, and a wonderful dish of leeks she was cooking in butter.

Her household expenses she told me, average about £20 a month, and they include such items as shoemaker, tram, subscription to the syndicate, and health insurance. Rent comes to £4 a month. What is left goes in paying for clothes and school for her daughter, Christine.

Mme. Mazijn gave me a list of prices from her local stores. "Of course," she said, "to be able to live as we do you have to shop carefully. There is competition again among the shops, and you have to make sure that you are buying at the right price, at the right time."

Here are some of the prices on her shopping list.

MEAT: best quality roasting beef, 2s. 11d. a lb. Boiling beef with bone, 1s. 2d. a lb. Mutton chops, 1s. 3d. a lb. Shoulder of mutton, without bone, 1s. 8d. a lb. Rump steak without bone, 1s. 10d. a lb. Beef kidneys, 8d. a lb. Sheep's liver, 8d. a lb.

BACON: salt or smoked, 3s. 6d. a lb. BUTTER from 4s. 1d. to 4s. 8d. a lb., depending on quality. MARGARINE: 2s. 1d. a lb. EGGS: 2d. each. MILK 10d. for 1 1/2 pints approx. Thick, fresh CREAM 2s. 6d. for the same quantity.

SO much for M. and Mme. Mazijn. Since I left them I have been busy checking with other people to see how far their story is normal.

From the young taxi-driver earning £6 a week on which to keep himself and his wife—all confirm it.

The white-aproned waitress who served me a plentiful three-course lunch, including a rump steak, for 6s. 4d. confirms it.

The statisticians charged with working out the Belgian cost-of-living index confirm, too, the picture Mazijn had given me of life in ration-free Belgium today.

And, indeed, to a West European there is nothing startling about it.

For Belgium's recovery of her pre-war standard of living is part of the general phenomenon of West Europe's great food recovery.

I have so far been through four different countries since I set out on this inquiry. Four, that is, if you will allow me to treat the Soviet zone of Germany as a country distinct and separate from West Germany.

Only in one country, the Soviet zone, did I find people still queuing and fighting for food, talking of it incessantly and still going hungry.

IN Holland I found a great difference. When I arrived there in the old days they used to hand me a bunch of ration tickets at the airport. They do not bother about that any more.

For Holland is well on her way to abandoning rationing altogether. In order to prepare herself for economic union with free trading, unrationed Belgium, the Dutch Government has pledged itself to end all rationing by January 1 next year.

Eggs, flour, sugar, biscuits, chocolate, sweets, jam, and macaroni are all free again and off points. Only butter, margarine, cheese, meat, rice, and coffee are still rationed.

What is more, Holland is also dropping the system of food subsidies.

Thus they save 300 million guilders (£23,037,000), probably more. First result of this is to be a reduction in the income tax on lower and middle range incomes.

In Holland, too, prices are beginning to drop as a consequence of the removal of controls and the stimulus of free competition.

Grocers are even trying to under-bid each other on sugar, eggs, and biscuits. All have got cheaper. The big chain stores are even offering at 10 percent. rebate once more.

IT'S RISKY TO WRITE A NOVEL

By FREDERICK COOK

NEW YORK.

If it's a quiet life you want, never write a novel. It might turn out to be another *Gone With the Wind*. Then you will never know another moment's real peace.

You will turn overnight from a happy nonentity to a world celebrity, with all the disadvantages as well as the money. People will telephone you years afterwards, often in the middle of the night; your mail will be so heavy it has to be delivered by the sackful; you will have to become practically an international lawyer to cope with your copyright problems.

This—and a lot more—is what writing a best-seller (probably the best-seller of them all) has meant to Margaret Mitchell, most of whose *Gone With the Wind* came to life between 1926 and 1939 and was first published in 1936.

'THIS IS PEGGY'

Now, 13 years later, it has handsomely passed Uncle Tom's Cabin as the widest-selling piece of fiction ever published. There are those in the American literary world who suspect that it is overhauling the Bible itself in point of sales volume.

Margaret Mitchell was a staff feature writer on her hometown newspaper, the Atlanta Journal, in Georgia, when she started to write her story. She wrote and re-wrote for years.

In 1936 a talent scout for the New York offices of the Macmillan Company spent a couple of days in Atlanta looking for new authors. Friends told him he ought to meet Peggy Mitchell, then a girl in her twenties, the wife of John Marsh, a local advertising man.

He said he would like to. An hour or so later his hotel room telephone rang. "This is Peggy Mitchell. I'm downstairs." The talent scout, Mr. H. S. Latham, found a tiny woman sitting on a divan and beside her the biggest manuscript he had ever seen, towering in two stacks almost up to her shoulders.

FIVE-ROOM FLAT

Margaret Mitchell and her husband still live in a five-room flat in Atlanta. Their only servant is a negro cook. The business side of her book was taken care of until three years ago, when he became ill, by Mr. Marsh. Now a full-time secretary keeps the records and Margaret Mitchell makes the decisions.

She confessed today that she has never read her book since she excitedly thumbed through the first complimentary copy 13 years ago. "I simply haven't had time," she said. "I'm a little disconcerted and somewhat amazed at its success, for after all both Scarlett O'Hara and Rhett Butler are fundamentally dishonest people and immoral."

"I have always disapproved of both of them, even disliked them. The book is popular nowadays with teen-agers, I'm told. When I was that age (she is in her early forties now) my parents would never have allowed me to read a book of that sort."

WORRIES are mounting about too much food in America. Bumper crops of almost everything are in sight and, with the Government committed to maintain floors under most prices, tax authorities are concerned about the burden.

Biggest problem, it seems likely, will be wheat. Salmon packers are worrying about the growing popularity of tuna. A flood of whisky is predicted for the first time since the war.

UNESCO solemnly reports: "In the animal world the tangled problems of national barriers do not exist. Fifteen have been flown from Amsterdam to the Moscow Zoo. Russia shipped polar bears, camels, deer and porcupines to the Netherlands. British and Belgian aces have exchanged lion cubs."

What all this—paid for by the taxpayers of member nations—has to do with the real work of UNO nobody at Lake Success can explain.

THE town of Minnesota, in Minnesota, is warning: "NOTICE—Get your dog licence now, or bang-bang—no dog."



"Keep circulating while they check up regional and sub-regional boards—"

NANCY

Raising the Proof



By Ernie Bushmiller



START USING
Fitch's
HANDRUFF REMOVER
HAIR TONIC
ON SALE AT LEADING STORES

SOLE AGENTS: NAN KANG CO. UNION BLDG. 47

Hongkong Rope Co's Output Increased

\$776,000 PROFIT DISCLOSED

A net profit of \$776,180.15 was reported at the 60th ordinary yearly meeting of the Hongkong Rope Manufacturing Company Limited, held at the offices of the Company, Chung Tin Building, this morning with Mr Albert Raymond (Chairman of the Board of Directors) presiding.

Mr Raymond said that the output of rope showed a considerable increase over the previous year and the hemp market, which was still influenced by exchange controls and official buying, had remained firm.

Addressing the meeting the Chairman said:

In the Accounts now before you the result of the year's trading is a net profit of \$776,180.15 which includes interest on Mortgage and Rents totalling \$118,094.19. This profit, added to the balance brought forward from last Account and the sum of \$18,812, provision for Corporation Profits Tax no longer required, makes a balance at credit of Profit and Loss Appropriation Account of \$928,068.08 which your Directors recommend be dealt with as follows:

Transfer to Staff Superannuation Fund	100,000.00
Transfer to Staff Passage Reserve	7,500.00
Transfer to Chinese Staff Superannuation Fund	5,000.00
Transfer to Corporation Profits Tax	194,105.00
Transfer to Bad and Doubtful Debts Reserve	5,000.00
Proposed Bonus to Staff and Workers for 1948	33,735.00
Proposed Dividend of \$1 per share, free of tax	200,000.00
Proposed Bonus of \$1 per share, free of tax	200,000.00
Carry forward to 1949	197,733.08
Total	\$928,068.08

These recommendations have been incorporated in the Accounts.

From time to time your Directors have given consideration to the completion of the scheme for modernization of our plant, which was interrupted by the war, and though they do not propose to embark on heavy capital expenditure at this present time, recommend the transfer of \$100,000 to Plant Replacement Reserve which they propose to strengthen by the transfer of the amount of \$150,000 at credit of General Reserve.

PLANT REPLACEMENT

Further substantial sums will have to be paid over the next four or five years as we are faced with the task, which is attracting much attention everywhere, of replacing a post-war plant for which depreciation has been provided for on the original cost. For instance, it would now take \$6,000 to replace four machines which originally cost \$3,000 and the money accumulated through depreciation will only buy two machines, the output of this section of our factory would be halved, and this reduction could only be remedied by raising new capital, which would be unsound finance.

In saying this, I am aware that it is impossible to forecast accurately the price which we may be called upon to pay for new plant, but I would fall in my duty were I not to impress on you the necessity of providing for the maintenance of that part of our Capital which is invested in fixed assets, by the allocation to Plant Replacement Reserve of sums to offset the loss in value of those fixed assets over and above the depreciation on book values shown in the accounts.

I trust that the provision for Bonus to Staff and Workers, who have again done very good work, will have your approval, as also the proposed allocation of \$100,000 to Staff Superannuation Fund which is intended to augment the amount in credit of certain members whose retirement after long and faithful service is impending. In this connection I regret to have to tell you that, in spite of prolonged sick leave, the health of our Secretary, Mr F. J. Tavares, has not improved to the extent of enabling him to resume his duties and your Board have reluctantly been compelled to terminate his employment as from the end of this month.

In view of his long and faithful service your Directors voted him a retiring gratuity which will be debited to the proposed Staff Superannuation Fund. If approved, and I am sure you will join with me in wishing him recovery of his health. Twenty-four flats of our House Property at Kennedy Town have been rehabilitated and

there remain eight which it is intended to reconstruct during the year. The return from rents appears to be in line with that on other property in that district.

Turning to the Balance Sheet, Stocks and Stores have been valued as usual at cost or under Depreciation on Plant and Buildings has been provided for on the customary basis and our Current Assets exceed Current Liabilities by \$789,935.20. Apart from the increase in Payments in Advance, due to purchases of hemp, I do not think there are any other points requiring comment.

OUTPUT UP

Our output of Rope showed a considerable increase over the previous year and the hemp market, which is still influenced by exchange controls and official buying, has remained firm. We have in hand and on order a good stock of raw materials and it is not anticipated that the production of Manila hemp this year will much exceed half the pre-war balings.

Our deliveries for the first quarter of this year are in excess of those for the corresponding period of last year, but you are doubtless aware of the unsettled political situation prevailing in a number of the Far Eastern countries which formerly were good markets for our Rope, and will not expect me to prophesy regarding our future prospects.

I hope you consider the result of the past year's working satisfactory, but I must point out that, due to the conservative policy of your Directors in past years, the balance sheet has been achieved with assets worth considerably more than the figures at which they appear in the Balance Sheet and, in amplification of my earlier remarks, the profit shown in the Profit and Loss Account does not indicate by how much the depreciation based on book values falls short of the provision necessary for replacement of plant.

I now beg to propose that the Report and Accounts together with the Appropriations therein recommended be adopted and passed and that the balance of \$197,733.08 be carried forward to next account.

RE-ELECTIONS

On the proposal of Mr R. V. Lederhofer, seconded by Mr S. L. Granville, Mr S. T. Williamson and Mr A. Raymond were re-elected to the Board.

The Chairman: The next business is the appointment of Auditors, and Messrs. Percy Smith & Co. and Peat, Marwick, Mitchell & Co. offer themselves for reappointment. They have approached the Board for an increase in their fees of \$500 each, and this, after due consideration, your Directors have agreed as being reasonable.

SIDE GLANCES By Galbraith



"Can't you deduct that dinner we gave your boss? Surely that's business expenses!"

BABICH FACES JUDGE



Milton Babich, 19, (left) appears before Judge Roland J. Steinle at a habeas corpus hearing, in Milwaukee. At right is Deputy Dist. Atty. John S. Barry. Dist. Atty. W. J. McCauley later issued a warrant charging Babich with the slaying of Patricia Birmingham, sister of his bride, Kathleen, 17. McCauley said Babich made a statement to him admitting he killed Patricia. — AP Picture.

I propose that Messrs. Percy Smith & Co. and Peat, Marwick, Mitchell & Co. be re-appointed Auditors for the ensuing year at a remuneration of \$1,750 each per annum.

Mr A. A. Botelho seconded.

NEW ARTICLES

At the Extraordinary General Meeting, the Chairman said:

We were only able to recover one copy of the Articles of Association after the war and this Meeting has been convened for the purpose of considering and, if thought fit, adopting the draft new Articles of Association.

Advantage was taken of the necessity of having the Articles reprinted to have them revised and amended, as indicated in the Notice convening this Meeting, and in the draft of the proposed new Articles which has been open for your inspection at this Head Office of the Company for the past three weeks.

Most of the alterations are due to the incorporation of your General Managers, and Article 47 gives the Board power to appoint one of their number to take the Chair at any meeting.

For a considerable time the Members of your Board have felt that their remuneration has been quite inadequate in view of their duties and responsibilities, and in the proposed new Article 91 this is increased from the \$1,000 per annum, at which it has stood since 1933, to \$2,500 per annum and such further sum as the Company may in General Meeting from time to time determine.

For similar reasons your Board consider that Article 90 should be amended to provide for the qualification of a Director being increased to 500 instead of 50 shares.

I do not think there are any other points requiring explanation and I now propose as a Special Resolution:—

"That as on and from the date of passing of this Resolution the Regulations contained in the printed document submitted to the Meeting and for the purpose of identification subscribed by the Chairman thereof be approved and adopted as the Regulations of Association of the Company in substitution for and to the exclusion of all the existing Articles thereof."

Major C. W. L. Way seconded. Present at the meeting were: Mr A. Raymond (Chairman), Sir Robert Ho Tung, Mr Horace Kadoorie, Mr S. T. Williamson, Mr I. W. Sheehan (Directors), Mr H. J. Armstrong (Legal Adviser), Major C. W. L. Way, Messrs D. V. Lederhofer, A. A. Botelho, D. E. Kibble and S. L. Granville (Shareholders) and Mr E. J. Sparshbery (Acting Secretary).

GOVT. TROOPS MOP UP IN MANDALAY

Recapture Of Maymyo Expected Soon

Rangoon, Apr. 4.—Government troops today mopped up pockets of insurgents in Mandalay, the central Burma temple city and capital of the ancient Burmese kings, which was recaptured from the Karens and Communists last night.

The main force of the insurgents had retreated from Mandalay along the road to Maymyo, a hill station 40 miles to the north-east, as the Government troops advanced.

About 120 Karens and Communists were killed and 30 captured before the town was completely recaptured. Government hands again after a fortnight's occupation by the rebels, according to the latest official reports.

An official spokesman stated that Government troops had recaptured Tongyi, an insurgent stronghold three miles north of Maymyo, and were launching a two-pronged attack on Maymyo itself, which was expected to fall "any day."

At Insein, the Karen-occupied town 13 miles north of Rangoon, 200 rebels surrendered today to "White Band" forces.

SMALLPOX SCARE

London, Apr. 4.—The Ministry of Health revealed today that a passenger who died on April 1, aboard the liner Mooltan, had been suffering from smallpox, and warned that further cases might develop among those who left the ship at London and Marseilles.

The Mooltan arrived in London from Australia on April 2, with 953 passengers and 411 crew. Local authorities have been advised of the names of all persons aboard, the ship-including a number who left without vaccination when it called at Marseilles—and the addresses to which they have gone.—Reuter.

Anglo-Siamese Arms Deal

London, Apr. 4.—Britain is selling sufficient arms to the Siamese Government to complete the equipment of five infantry battalions stationed in Southern Siam, the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, Mr Christopher Mayhew, told Parliament today.

The agreement for this transaction had been reached through normal diplomatic channels, he said. The Siamese battalions would use the arms to preserve order on the Siam-Malay border in co-operation with the security forces of the Malay Federation.

The British Government had also offered to supply a small quantity of equipment and arms for Siamese police units co-operating with the British security forces in the border area, he added.

Mr Mayhew was replying to an inquiry for information by Mr D. N. Pritt, an Independent Labour Member.—Reuter.

Mr Calwell Seeks New Immigration Restrictions

Canberra, Apr. 4.—The Australian Cabinet will meet on Thursday to consider legislation proposed by the Immigration Minister, Mr Arthur Calwell, for a stringent tightening of the Immigration Act. It was authoritatively learned here today.

Two weeks ago, Mr Calwell announced that he would seek amendments to correct the weaknesses disclosed in the Act by the Australian High Court judgment in favour of Mrs Annie O'Keefe, who sought an injunction against deportation. Mrs O'Keefe, an Indonesian, came to Australia as a refugee during the war and married an Australian.

The High Court, by a majority decision, ruled that she was not a "prohibited immigrant" upon her arrival in Australia and had not been asked to submit to a dictation test within five years of landing here, as required under the present Immigration Act.

The dictation test is used to establish whether a person is a prohibited immigrant. Any language may be used for the test.

The proposed new legislation is expected to provide:

1.—For the deportation of aliens for political reasons—for the first time in Australian history—and that aliens may be deported without explanation.

2.—For legalising the deportation of hundreds of war-time alien refugees who have already actually been deported.

3.—For the tightening of the Act to enable the Immigration Minister to round up the remaining aliens whom it is desired to deport and to empower the Minister to deport them.

The amending legislation is expected to be submitted to the next session of the Commonwealth Parliament, opening on or about May 18.—Reuter.

Atlantic Pact Signed

(Continued from Page 1)

nation, and I am satisfied that the step we are taking has the almost unanimous approval of the British people.

"Like other signatories, my country has had forced upon it the great task of fighting two world wars against aggression within a period of a quarter of a century.

"The cost in human life and treasure of generations in the period following each struggle over a wide area of the world were thrown into a state of uncertainty and harassed by wars of nerves and civil wars.

"The common people, who only want to live in peace, have been unable to follow their peaceful pursuits or to sleep safely in their beds.

"They have seen their constitutions crushed—constitutions in which they thought they had made their liberty secure.

"We have witnessed a period in which, while the countries represented here have been striving to rehabilitate the world and to restore it to prosperity and sanity, they have been constantly frustrated in their efforts."

ONLY COURSE LEFT

"We have all tried with genuine desire and high purpose to build an effective United Nations. We have endeavoured to make its machinery work and to create high confidence in this great world organisation so as to enable it to establish security for all the peoples of the world.

"But so far our hopes have not been fully realised. What course then was left to us? We had to get together and build with such material as were available to us, and this material was happily at hand in this great Atlantic community, with a common outlook and desire for peace."

"The countries whose representatives are signing this great Pact today are composed of peace-loving peoples with spiritual affinities, but they also have great pride in their skill and their production, and in their achievement in mustering the forces of nature and harnessing the great resources of the world for the benefit of mankind. Our peoples do not glorify war but they will not shrink from it if aggression is threatened.—Reuter.

Crowds Flock To Cemeteries

Shops Close For Ching Ming

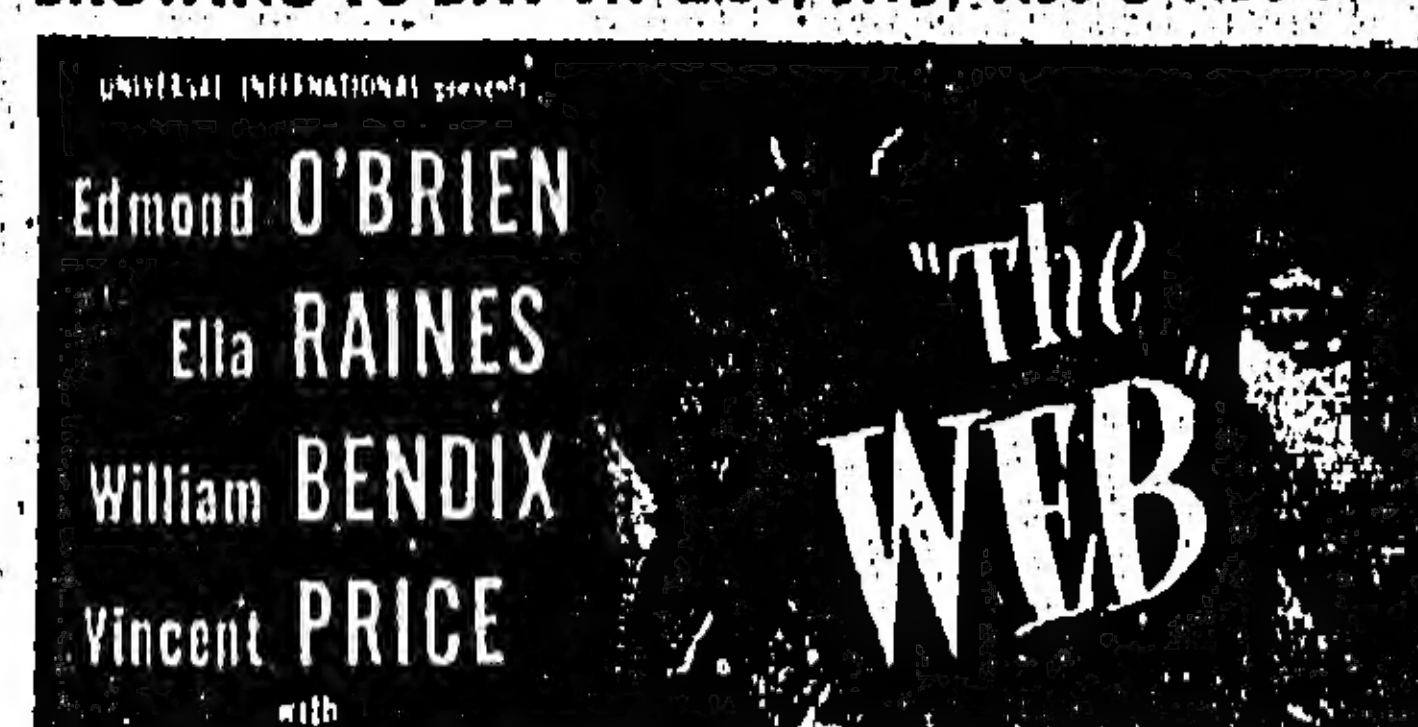
Today is Ching Ming, the day which Chinese custom for thousands of years has set aside as the day on which the living pay tribute to their ancestors. Many Chinese shops and business offices have declared a day's holiday to enable their employees to visit the graves of their relatives. Buses to the cemeteries have been crowded this morning, and hire cars have been busy. Thousands of Chinese have left the Colony in the past week for their homes in Kwangtung on their annual pilgrimage to the graves of their ancestors. The railway authorities have been running five trains a day to Canton since April 1 instead of the usual four, and have carried out of Hongkong an average of 5,000 passengers daily.

There has also been a heavy demand for plane and steamship passages. The railway will maintain the five trains a day schedule for some days to cater for the return of the pilgrims.

LEE THEATRE

ADVANCE BOOKING OFFICE
CHINA TRAVEL SERVICE & TOURS
BOOKING HOURS: 11 AM to 8 PM

SHOWING TO-DAY AT 2.30, 5.15, 7.30 & 9.30 P.M.



MARIA PALMER • JOHN ABBOTT • FRITZ LEIBER • HOWLAND CHAMBERLAIN

NEXT CHANGE

Jane WYMAN • Lew AYRES

"JOHNNY BELINDA"

WARNER BROS. PICTURE

COMMENCING THURSDAY

AT THE

KINGS • LEE

"OSCAR" AWARDED TO JANE

WYMAN FOR HER BEST PERFORMANCE

AS "BELINDA"

JANE WYMAN • LEW AYRES

"Johnny Belinda"

WARNER BROS. NEW DRAMATIC ACHIEVEMENT

CHARLES BICKFORD • JAMES MOOREHEAD • STEPHEN MCNALLY

JEAN NEGUESCO • JERRY WARD

BOOKINGS NOW OPEN!

CENTRAL

270, QUEEN'S RD., CENTRAL. PHONE 25720.

TO-DAY AT 2.30, 5.30, 7.30 & 9.30 P.M.

THE WILD HORSE COUNTRY

HURLS AUTRY HIS GREATEST CHALLENGE!

GENE AUTRY

AND CHAMPION

The STRAWBERRY

ROAN

Glenn Ford • Jack Palance • Dick Van Dyke • Henry Holt • Jones • Buttram

Screenplay by Dwight Connelly and Dorothy Yost • Directed by JOHN ENGLISH • Produced by ARMAND SCHAEFER

TO-DAY ONLY

Cathay

At 2.30, 5.20, 7.30 & 9.30 P.M.

MY WILD IRISH ROSE

DENNIS MORGAN

16 SONGS!!

THE WILSONS • ARNOLD LANGE • ALAN HALE • GLOUCE TOWNS • CLAUDE RAINS • BOB HOPE • SARA HEDCOCK

Directed by DAVID BUTLER

To-morrow: "BETWEEN US GIRLS"

SEE AND YOU SEE AND YOU SEE AND YOU SEE AND YOU SEE

VC VC VC VOTE

MR. BL. MR. BL. MR. BL. MR. BLANDINGS

LAUGH CAL. LAUGH CAL. LAUGH CAL. LAUGH CAL. LAUGH CAL. LAUGH CAL. LAUGH CAL. LAUGH CAL. LAUGH CAL. LAUGH CAL.

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Radio Hongkong

Programme Summary: 6.01, Children's Story: "Toy Town" by G. G. Williams (BBC); 6.30, Cantoneses by Radio: Given by Miss Lee Wai-lan & S. K. Lee (Radio); 7.00, American Letter by Felix Mendelssohn's Hawaiian Serenade; 7.30, "Down Memory Lane" (Wm. Allen Woodhouse (Radio)); 8.00, News and News Analysis (London Relay); 8.15, Meet the "Tardis"; 8.45, "Grand Hotel" (Radio); 9.00, "From the Editor's Chair" (Radio); 9.15, Interlude; 9.30, "The Brains Trust" (Radio); 9.45, News and News Analysis (London Relay); 10.00, "The Brains Trust" (Radio); 10.15, "The Brains Trust" (Radio); 10.30, "The Brains Trust" (Radio); 10.45, "The Brains Trust" (Radio); 11.00, "The Brains Trust" (Radio); 11.15, "The Brains Trust" (Radio); 11.30, "The Brains Trust" (Radio); 11.45, "The Brains Trust" (Radio); 12.00, "The Brains Trust" (Radio); 12.15, "The Brains Trust" (Radio); 12.30, "The Brains Trust" (Radio); 12.45, "The Brains Trust" (Radio); 1.00, "The Brains Trust" (Radio); 1.15, "The Brains Trust" (Radio); 1.30, "The Brains Trust" (Radio); 1.45, "The Brains Trust" (Radio); 2.00, "The Brains Trust" (Radio); 2.15, "The Brains Trust" (Radio); 2.30, "The Brains Trust" (Radio); 2.45, "The Brains Trust" (Radio); 3.00, "The Brains Trust" (Radio); 3.15, "The Brains Trust" (Radio); 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